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Serial No.: 09/773,876  
Filed: January 31, 2001  
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**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

This invention provides a method for treating rheumatoid arthritis and other forms of inflammatory arthritis which comprises administering to a subject an amount of an agent effective to inhibit the activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1. ~~This invention also provides related methods and compositions.~~